

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPATION:

President Nixon

Mrs. Cleo A. Noel, Jr. } Widows of U.S. Diplomats

Mrs. G. Curtis Moore } murdered in Khartoum

Maj. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant

To the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday, May 17, 1973

12:00 Noon

PLACE:

The Oval Office

[Photographers came in briefly, and then left.]

The President: Siddiqi, whom I just met with said: You are the most powerful country. You can settle South Asia." But we know our powers and our limitations. Think now of our limitation, in respect to your husbands. I wish we could do more. As you know, Sudan seems to be backing down -- they're probably scared.

We continue to press in the UN for something to be done against terrorism. It is hard to do because of the Arab bloc. We are putting the heat to Brezhnev on this. Of course they deal with it ruthlessly. So do the Israelis. We have a major problem dealing with other countries and getting along. Take Lebanon, it's torn apart because of the damned terrorism. It's poisoning the whole Middle East.

It gets down to the Arab-Israeli problem. Until that is solved, it will go on.

I have talked to Mrs. Meir as strongly as possible. Egypt is tough; Jordan is reasonable.

The best way to get at terrorism is to get at the Arab-Israeli dispute.

We are talking to the Russians, Dr. Kissinger is talking to the Israelis (off the record, but they leak).

Is there anything we can do ?

Mrs. Noel: Everyone has been so helpful.

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The President: There's so little we can do. You and your children have so much to be proud of. We will work for a peaceful world -- what your husbands worked for.

Where do you live?

Mrs. Noel: Both of us live here.

Mrs. Moore: I live in North West.

The President: Spring Valley.

Washington is pretty in the Spring. I also like it in the summer -- the long evenings. I go out on the Sequoia after long days of work. I can only thank you for your sacrifice. Be of good faith. This will pass. We are with you.

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